

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 ICA-20 SP-02 EB-08 /084 W
 -----117050 210710Z /13

R 201317Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1808
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS PRTORIA 4135

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB PINS PINT SHUM SF
SUBJECT: WCW DETENTIONS: UPDATE; PAPAL INTEREST

REF: A) DURBAN 390, B) JOHANNESBURG 1603, 1450, 1356, AND A-69

1. ACCORDING TO JULY 19 PRESS, THE SAG DETAINED BETWEEN 27 AND 30 MEMBERS OF THE YOUNG CHRISTIAN WORKERS (YCW) ORGANIZATION, IN ALL FOUR PROVINCES OF SOUTH AFRICA SINCE THE CRACKDOWN BEGAN ON MAY 3 WHEN YCW PRESIDENT PHELELO MAGANE WAS DETAINED. REPORTEDLY, OF THE TOTAL NUMBER IN DETENTION, 15 HAVE BEEN RELEASED, TWO CHARGED, AND THE OTHERS ARE BEING HELD UNDER THE INTERNAL SECURITY ACT AND/OR TERRORISM ACT. THE MOST RECENT DETENTIONS TOOK PLACE ON JULY 11 WHEN MS. BAILE NELSON (19) AND MS. KUKI RAMPHORE (21) WERE PICKED UP IN KRUGERSDORP. DOZENS OF OTHER YCW MEMBERS HAVE BEEN QUESTIONED BY THE POLICE DURING THE PAST FEW MONTHS.

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2. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT, JULY 19 PRESS REPORTED THAT THE POPE SENT AN "URGENT INQUIRY" TO THE VATICAN'S APOSTOLIC DELEGATION IN PRETORIA ASKING ABOUT THE YCW DETENTIONS. YCW NATIONAL CHAPLAIN FATHER GERARD DE FLEURIOT ALLEGEDLY TOLD PRESS THAT INQUIRY "WAS VERY STRONGLY WORDED. THIS IS NOT COMMONLY DONE." DE FLEURIOT ADDED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED DOZENS OF SIMILAR INQUIRIES FROM CATHOLIC ORGANIZATIONS AROUND THE WORLD.

EDMONDSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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